

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Douglas M. Sheffield, Jr.

Serial no.:

Filed:

For: VACUUM ACTUATED DISPLAY ORNAMENTS

**VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY STATUS  
(37 CFR 1.9(f) and 1.27(b) - INDEPENDENT INVENTOR)**

As below-named inventor, I hereby declare that I qualify as sole inventor as defined in 37 CFR 1.9(c) for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, to the Patent and Trademark Office with regard to the invention, entitled

**"VACUUM ACTUATED DISPLAY ORNAMENTS"**

by inventor Douglas M. Sheffield, Jr., described in

  X   the specification filed herewith.  
       application Serial No. 0 /           , filed August 19, 1997.  
       Patent No.                   , issued                                   .

I have not assigned, granted, conveyed or licensed and am under no obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention to any person who could not be classified as an independent inventor under 37 CFC 1.9(c) if that person had made the invention, or to any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

Each person, concern or organization to which I have assigned, granted, conveyed, or licensed or are under an obligation under contract or law to assign, grant, convey or license any rights in the invention is listed below.

  X   No such person, concern or organization  
       Persons, concerns or organizations listed below\*

08914628-081997

\* NOTE: separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27).

FULL NAME Douglas M. Sheffield, Jr.

ADDRESS 11450 Daykin Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63146

☒ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

FULL NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

☒ Individual ☐ Small Business Concern ☐ Nonprofit Organization

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and, further, that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

Douglas M. Sheffield, Jr.

Douglas M. Sheffield, Jr.  
Signature

Aug. 19, 1997  
Date

**COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY  
CO-PENDING APPLICATION  
CONTAINING ADDITIONAL SUBJECT MATTER**

As below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled VACUUM ACTUATED DISPLAY ORNAMENTS, the specification of which was filed on August 19, 1997, as Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_, and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_

This application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in our earlier filed pending application, Serial no. 08/212,150, filed March 14, 1994.

**PCT FILED APPLICATION ENTERING NATIONAL STAGE**

c. [ ] was described and claimed in International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_ and as amended on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF REVIEW OF PAPERS AND DUTY OF CANDOR**

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the content of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a).

[X] In compliance with this duty there is attached an information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.97.

**PRIORITY CLAIM**

[ ] I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code §119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

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[ ] The attached 35 U.S.C. §119 claim for priority for the U.S. application(s) listed below forms a part of this declaration.

<u>Country</u>	<u>Application Number</u>	<u>Date of Filing (day, month, year)</u>	<u>Date of issue (day, month, year)</u>	<u>Priority Claimed</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____	[ ] YES [ ] NO
_____	_____	_____	_____	[ ] YES [ ] NO
_____	_____	_____	_____	[ ] YES [ ] NO

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

08/212,150      3/14/94      Pending  
(Application Serial No.)      (Filing date)      (Status: patented, pending, abandoned)

#### DECLARATION

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

#### POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the following attorneys and/or agents with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, to receive the patent, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: Veo Peoples, Jr. (Reg. no. 27048) of Peoples & Hale whose address is: 1221 Locust Street, Suite 310, St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2364.

I hereby specify the following as the correspondence address to which all communication about this application are to be directed:

08914628-081997

SEND CORRESPONDENCE TO:

Veo Peoples, Jr.  
Peoples & Hale  
1221 Locust Street, Suite 310  
St. Louis, MO 63103-2364

DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

Veo Peoples, Jr.  
(314) 231-9775

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Full name of sole inventor: Douglas M. Sheffield, Jr.

Inventor's Signature\* Douglas M. Sheffield, Jr. 8-19-97  
Date

Residence St. Louis, Missouri

Citizenship USA

Post Office Address 11450 Daykin Drive, St. Louis, MO 63146

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\* Before signing this declaration, each person signing must:

1. Review the declaration and verify the correctness of all information therein; and
2. Review the specification and the claims, including any amendments made to the claims. After the declaration is signed, the specification and claims are not to be altered.